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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria/USSR

DATE DISTR. 9 Feb. 1950

25X1 SUBJECT Increased Soviet Interest in Internal Security
of Soviet Zone of Austria

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1. In People's Party circles, as well as among the Socialists, the view is current that the peace treaty has been definitely postponed.
2. In spite of some government anxiety regarding the future Soviet attitude, the Ministry of the Interior does not expect drastic action, although the following facts indicate an increased Soviet interest in the internal security of their zone:
 - a. The Soviets demand that a complete strength report on the Austrian gendarmerie and police in their zone be given them each month.
 - b. The Soviets told Figl that the Soviet Zone gendarmerie is 726 under strength and demand that vacancies be filled by "democratic" personnel within three months. The Council of Ministers agreed, and 200 gendarmes will be posted in the Soviet Zone as a start. But these will be carefully vetted from the Austrian standpoint and thus will not be "democratic" in the Soviet sense.
 - c. The Soviets refused to accept Dr. Schinko to succeed Andreas Liberda, ex-Director of Security in Lower Austria who is now in a western zone, and are delaying decision on Schwab, latest Austrian proposal for the vacancy.
 - d. The Soviets demand that the St. Poelten-Enns line be completed quickly, but the Austrians will refuse, as the estimated cost is over 300,000 Austrian schillings.

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